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December, 2019

SLOW CHRISTMAS

With our Advent series “Hope is on the Way” starting, a large part of this series will be focused on taking our time in the journey, not rushing through it. We need to take time to slow down and really focus on what God, our Father, is giving us this Advent and Christmas season. With that in mind, take a few moments and focus on these statements about what He is giving us.

- He is giving us His only Son.
- He is giving us the Prince of Peace.
- He is giving us the Sacrificial Lamb.
- He is giving us His plan of salvation in the flesh.
- He is giving us hope.

While you just took some time to focus on these statements, our culture has Christmas-themed everything flying past us at a whirlwind pace. So, I am going to encourage you to slow down everything you do this Advent and Christmas season. How might we do this? Well I read an article this week entitled, “Try this Trick to Slow Down Christmas Day” by Calah Alexander that has some good insight on how to do this, not only on Christmas Day, but throughout the season. She starts by mentioning how because of the way our brains are wired, children and adult experience time differently.

Do you remember when you were a child how Christmas Day seemed to take forever, but now it flies by? That’s caused by the difference in brain wiring. What this does though, especially when we do the same routines over and over during the Christmas season, is make them feel as if they are flying by. So how might we slow it down? Patricia Costello, PhD, a neuroscientist and program director at Walden University answers this question in the article as she says, “It comes back to learning new things. Are you learning a new skill? Are you cooking something different? Introducing novelty into your life when you can will make the memories stand out and stretch time in a way.” And just as a side note, if you want time to slow down in other areas you can apply this practice of learning something new all the time, not only at Christmas.

Regardless, with this idea in mind how might you learn something new and novel this Christmas season? Maybe it would come reading a book on the history of the Christmas carols we so often sing? It could be starting a new Christmas tradition or going back and relearning an old one that seems to have passed by. For example, there are some Snowball Cookies my grandma made every year for Christmas, that I haven’t had since she passed. I want to try to find that recipe and make them this year as a new, yet old, tradition for our family.

I would also suggest reading a new devotion this Advent on who Christ is. (Feel free to pick up one we printed from Lutheran Hour called, Call His Name Jesus.) We are reminded every year at Christmas with the coming of Christ, even though sometimes we miss it in the rush, that he reveals something new about himself to us. So slow down and take time to focus on how Christ comes to make all things new. At the same time focus on how he has come and is already transforming our lives with his salvation and peace all the time! Live with a Christ-centered purpose every single day of this Season! Rejoice, and have a blessed Christmas because hope is on the way!

In Immanuel,
Pastor Matt



UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICE SCHEDULE



Magic is waking up the household toys in this improvised tale inspired by *The Nutcracker*! When Clara's favorite toy gets damaged she must travel to a far off kingdom in the secret world of living toys. The whole audience will join her grand adventure in the dance of the Sugar Plum fairies, but can they help Clara fix her toy, defeat the evil Mouse King and save Christmas?

December Schedule

- 18 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER
6 pm | Cropp House
Please let Barb Cropp know if you will be there
- 22 COMBINED SERVICE
9:30 am
fellowship time following service in Gym
- 24 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7 pm
- 25 SERVICE WITH CAROLS
9:30 am
- 30 COMBINED SERVICE
9:30 am
fellowship time following service in Gym

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY December 2019 Newsletter Article



GOD WILL PROVIDE

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



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THANK YOU, FROM KAIROS

Thank you Prayer Warriors" for your prayers.

The Kairos 4 day, at the Special Commitment Center, on McNeil Island was a great time of sharing the LORD with the residents. We heard some great testimonies on how the Lord worked in their lives during the 4 days. A couple guys that were of the Wicca religion said," the days spent with Kairos will help them to get back on the right track".

Thanks again or the prayers.
Bob Rothwell

LOCAL IMPACT GIVING MINISTRIES FOR 2020

Thanks to all that attended the Voter's meeting on 11/17. At the meeting, the list of suggestions for the 2020 Local Impact Giving were voted on by those members in attendance. We are please to announce the following ministries received the top number of votes and will be our 2020 Triannual Giving recipients:

- Lighthouse Family Ministries NW
- Mary's Place in Burien
- Kairos Prison Ministry of Washington

The council will decide on the order of giving in the upcoming months. If you have an questions. please contact any council member or Pastor Matt.